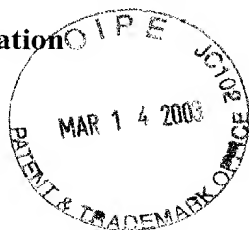


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application)
YOSHII *et al.*)
Application 09/554,186)
Filed: May 9, 2000)
For: BIOCHIP AND METHOD FOR USING THE SAME)
Attorney Docket No. HIRA.0081)



RECEIVED

MAR 20 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Art Unit 1643

Examiner Betty J. Forman

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

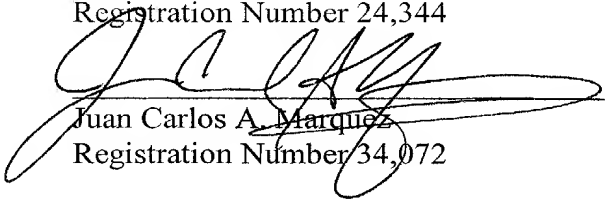
Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of September 9, 1998, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 1998-255288.

The translation of the certified copy of corresponding Japanese patent application 1998-255288 is being submitted herewith, together with a verified translation statement. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200
March 14, 2003